

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

SCHÄFERJOHANN, Volker
DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH
European Patent Operations
Karl-Wiechert-Allee 74
D-30625 Hannover
ALLEMAGNE

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

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Date of mailing 31. Jan. 2005 (day/month/year)
Patent Department Administration - Hannover

28.01.2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PD020097 ✓ S

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/1832

International filing date (day/month/year)

24.10.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)

28.10.2002

Applicant

DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH et al

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.

2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.

3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

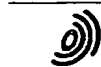
The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



European Patent Office - Gitschiner Str. 103
D-10958 Berlin
Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0
Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840

Authorized Officer

Koster, A



Tel. +49 30 25901-726



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PD020097		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP 03/1832	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 24.10.2003	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 28.10.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H04L12/28		
Applicant DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH et al		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 29.04.2004		Date of completion of this report 28.01.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - Gitschiner Str. 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840		Authorized Officer Tous Fajardo, J Telephone No. +49 30 25901-489 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/11832

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-16 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-11 received on 04.11.2004 with letter of 03.11.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/6-6/6 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/1832

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2-4,8-10
	No: Claims	1,5-7,11
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-11
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-11

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: "SPECIFICATION OF THE HOME AUDIO/VIDEO INTEROPERABILITY (HAVI) ARCHITECTURE" HAVI SPECIFICATION, XX, XX, November 1998 (1998-11), pages 1-25, 1-196, 198-280, 282-384, XP002935300
- D2: US 2002/029269 A1 (MCCARTY SCOTT F ET AL) 7 March 2002 (2002-03-07)
- D3: RITCHIE J ET AL: "UpnP AV Architecture: 0.83" MICROSOFT CORPORATION, 12 June 2002 (2002-06-12), pages 1-22, XP002271673

1) The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of independent claims 1 and 7 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

1.1) The document D3 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

a method for monitoring audio/video connections hereinafter called AV connections which have been set up in a network of distributed stations which are networked with one another via wire-free or wire bus connections (see page 3, paragraph 2), wherein a station (see paragraph 6.4, "Media Server") monitors to determine whether the station which is AV connected to it (see paragraph 6.4, "Media Renderer, Control Point Combo Device") has sent a logging-off message (see paragraph 6.4, CM::TransferComplete() and page 8, paragraph 5.2.2, lines 13-15) and, if yes, in that this station autonomously ends the setting up of the AV connection with the station which is logged off (see paragraph 6.4, CM::TransferComplete() and page 7, paragraph 5.1.2, lines 9-10).

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

1.2) Network station claim 7 corresponds to method claim 1. D3 discloses also a network station for implementing the method of claim 1. Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 7 is not new (Articles 33(2) PCT).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/11832

2) Dependent claims 2-6 and 8-11 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty (Article 33(2) PCT) and/or inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT), see documents D1, D2 and D3 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.

04 NOV 2004

Amended claims

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1. A method for monitoring audio/video connections hereinafter called AV connections which have been set up in a network of distributed stations (10, 20, 30, 40) which are networked with one another via wire-free or wire bus connections (15), **characterized in that** a station (STB) monitored to determine whether the station (VCR) which is AV connected to it has sent a logging-off message and, if yes, in that this station (STB) autonomously ends the setting up of the AV connection with the station (VCR) which is logged off.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a station (STB) which is AV connected to another station (VCR) sends a signaling request (54) to the stations in the network in the situation where the AV connection has remained unused for a first specific time, and in that, in the situation where the signaling request remains unanswered by the station (VCR) which is AV connected to the requesting station (STB), the requesting station (STB) autonomously internally ends the setting up of the AV connection.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, when a new connection request arrives, a station (STB) from which an AV connection to another station (VCR) has already been set up, sends a signaling request to the stations in the network and in that, in the situation where the signaling request remains unanswered by the station (VCR) which is AV connected to the requesting station (STB), the requesting station (STB) autonomously internally ends the setting up of the AV connection.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that, in the situation in which it is found that the other station (VCR) on the AV connection which has

been set up is still registered in the network, the logical connection has remained unused for a second specific time, the station (STB) which is carrying out the check autonomously internally ends the setting up of the existing AV connection.

5 5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that audio and/or video data is transmitted via the AV connection.

10 6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the data transmissions in the network are carried out in accordance with the rules of the UPnP Standard.

15 7. A network station (STB) for a network of distributed stations (10, 20, 30, 40) which are networked with one another via wire-free or wire bus connections (15), having means for setting up an audio/video connection hereinafter called AV connection to another station (VCR), **characterized in that** the network station (STB) has monitoring means (50-58) which it uses to monitor whether the station (VCR) which is AV connected to it has sent a logging-off message, and furthermore having connection ending means (56) for autonomously ending the AV connection which has been set up when the monitoring means (50-58) find that the logging-off message has been sent from the station (VCR) which is AV connected to it.

20 25 30 35 8. The network station as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the monitoring means (50-58) are also designed to monitor whether the AV connection which has been set up has remained unused for a first specific time and, if yes, to send a signaling request to the stations in the network, and is also designed such that it autonomously internally ends the setting up of the existing AV connection if the signaling request remains unanswered by the

station (VCR) which is AV connected to the requesting station.

- 5 9. The network station (STB) as claimed in claim 7,
characterized in that the monitoring means (50-58) is
designed to send a signaling request to the network
stations when a new connection request for a further
station has arrived and it has been found that the AV
connection which has been set up has been unused for
10 that time, with autonomous ending of the setting up
of the existing AV connection when the signaling
request remains unanswered by the station (VCR) which
is AV connected to the requesting station (STB).
- 15 10. The network station as claimed in claim 9,
characterized in that the monitoring means (50 to 58)
are also designed such that they end the setting up
of the existing AV connection autonomously when it is
found that the other station (VCR) in the AV
20 connection which has been set up is admittedly still
registered in the network, but that the AV connection
has remained unused for a second specific time.
- 25 11. The network station as claimed in one of the
preceding claims, characterized in that the network
station is designed for data transmissions in
accordance with the UPnP Standard.